

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-54.

Please add the following new claims:

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55. A method of accessing a subject multi-dimensional database stored on a data store connected to a computer, comprising:
receiving an indication of a number of features to be identified;
performing feature identification to identify the indicated number of features; and
creating an index for the subject multi-dimensional database using the identified number of features.
56. The method of claim 55, wherein the index comprises a multi-dimensional database that is derived from the subject multi-dimensional database.
57. The method of claim 55, wherein the number of features to be identified is received as a parameter value.
58. The method of claim 55, wherein feature identification comprises generating an ordered list of multi-dimensional points.
59. The method of claim 55, further comprising creating the index using the list of multi-dimensional points.
60. The method of claim 55, wherein the index stores deviation values for each of the identified number of features.
61. An apparatus for accessing a subject multi-dimensional database, comprising:
a computer having a data store coupled thereto, wherein the data store stores a subject multi-dimensional database;
one or more computer programs, performed by the computer, for receiving an indication of a number of features to be identified, performing feature identification to identify the
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indicated number of features, and creating an index for the subject multi-dimensional database using the identified number of features.

62. The apparatus of claim 61, wherein the index comprises a multi-dimensional database that is derived from the subject multi-dimensional database.

63. The apparatus of claim 61, wherein the number of features to be identified is received as a parameter value.

64. The apparatus of claim 61, wherein feature identification comprises generating an ordered list of multi-dimensional points.

65. The apparatus of claim 61, further comprising creating the index using the list of multi-dimensional points.

66. The apparatus of claim 61, wherein the index stores deviation values for each of the identified number of features.

67. An article of manufacture comprising a program storage medium readable by a computer and embodying one or more instructions executable by the computer to access a subject multi-dimensional database stored on a data store connected to the computer, comprising:

receiving an indication of a number of features to be identified;
performing feature identification to identify the indicated number of features; and
creating an index for the subject multi-dimensional database using the identified number of features.

68. The article of manufacture of claim 67, wherein the index comprises a multi-dimensional database that is derived from the subject multi-dimensional database.

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